

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of synchronizing data stored in remote stores, the method comprising:
  - (a) connecting a first remote store to a computer device;
  - (b) synchronizing data stored within the first remote store with data contained within a first publisher record stored within the computer device;
  - (c) synchronizing the data contained within first publisher record with data contained within a composite record stored on the computer device;
  - (d) synchronizing the contained within composite record with contained within a second publisher record stored within the computer device.
2. The method of claim 1, further including:
  - (e) synchronizing the contained within second publisher record with data stored within a second remote store.
4. The method of claim 1, further including:
  - (e) receiving a command from a user to edit the data contained within the composite record; and
  - (f) comparing the edit command to at least one constraint in a synchronization mapping record corresponding to the first remote store;
  - (g) editing the first publisher record when the edit command does not violate the at least one constraint.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the composite record is part of a computer operating system.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained within the first publisher record comprises contact data.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained within the first publisher record comprises contact data.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained within the first publisher record comprises calendar data.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained within the first publisher record comprises playlist data.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained within the first publisher record comprises digital certificate data.
10. A method of maintaining related data stored in a plurality of stores, the method comprising:
  - (a) maintaining at least one publisher record that identifies data stored in a remote store;
  - (b) maintaining a composite record that identifies a composite of data stored in the plurality of stores;
  - (c) displaying in a first format in a graphical user interface data identified in the publisher record; and
  - (d) displaying in a second format in the graphical user interface data included in the composite record and not included in the publisher record;  
wherein the first format is different from the second format.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first format includes characters having a first darkness level and the second format includes characters having a second darkness level.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein one of the first and second formats includes an icon.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

(e) receiving an edit command to edit data included in the composite record;

(f) in response to (e) editing the composite record;

(g) determining whether the edit command applies to the data included in the publisher record;

(h) when the edit command applies to the data included in the publisher record, editing the publisher record.

14. The method of claim 13, further including:

(i) transmitting edit information to the store when the edit command applies to the data included in the publisher record.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the composite record and the publisher record are part of a computer operating system.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the data stored on the store comprises contact data.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the data stored on the store comprises calendar data.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the data stored on the store comprises a digital certificate.

19. A method of updating contact data stored on a plurality of computing devices, the method comprising:

receiving at a computer operating system an edit instruction to edit contact data stored on a first computer device;

coupling the first computer device to a second computer device that stores contact data;

transmitting updated contact data information from the operating system of the first computer device to the second computer device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the updated contact data information includes a new contact record.

21. The method of claim 19, further including:

receiving at the operating system of the first computer device updated contact data information transmitted from the second computer device.

22. A computer readable medium containing computer readable instructions for causing a computer device to perform the steps comprising:

(a) maintaining at least one publisher record that identifies data stored in a store;

(b) maintaining a composite record that identifies a composite of data stored in the plurality of stores;

(c) displaying in a first format in a graphical user interface data identified in the publisher record; and

(d) displaying in a second format in the graphical user interface data included in the composite record and not included in the publisher record.